(d) whether Government have allocated/propose to allocate funds for the encouragement of naturopathy institutes in the country during the Eighth plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) 7 public and about 51 private naturopathy institutions are known to be functioning in the country. The Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy reviews the functioning of institutions which receive grant-in-aid.

(c) Naturopathy emphasises more on prevention and there is no cost of medicines.

(d and (e) Government have allocated Rs. 3.00 crores to Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy and Rs. 1.00 crore to National Institute of Naturopathy during the 8th Five Year Plan.

Setting up of Naturopathy Institutes in States

4667. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Naturopathy is based on "prevention is better than cure" being not only curative but also educative and preventive, besides cheaper than other methods of treatment, though allopaths are internationally averse to it;

(b) whether it is a fact that Naturopathy in our country remained subdued or ignored out of all Indian systems of medicines despite its benefits to the suffering humanity;

(c) whether government propose to set up one Naturopathic Institute in each of the States in view of its benefits; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Naturopathy emphasises more on prevention and there is no cost of medicines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Setting up of treatment facilities is the responsibility of State Govts. Government of India promotes Naturopathy and also assists organisations involved in the work through the activities of National Institute of Naturopathy & Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy.

Indiscriminate use of Antibiotics in the country

4668. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

SHRI SOM PAL :

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government share the concern expressed by Indian Medical Association at its recent national conference over indiscriminate use of antibiotics in India, which causes several serious side effects many a time hazardous to health;

(b) if so, what measures are being contemplated to keep a check on this misuse and overuse of antibiotics in the country;

(c) whether Government would consider a programme of educating the medical practioners as well as the common man on these asptcts; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) Excessive use of antibiotics may cause side effects. In order to promote their rational use, medical practioners are advised to prescribe antibiotics only after clinically diagnosing the disease and informing the patient about the exact regime to be followed during treatment. Further the possible side-effects of the drug are to be highlighted in the package for the guidance of the practioner and the patient. Steps are also taken to educate and update the knowledge of medical practitioners through workshops, seminars etc. in this regard.